



# The Koshers Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc

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Volume 12 No. 1

ISSN 1322-6401

March, 2005

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**Diane Armstrong  
will speak  
about her new book**

*Winter Journey*  
**on 17 April 2005**

**at 2.30 pm**

**at the**

**North Shore**

**Synagogue**

(See page 7)

### **WORKSHOP DATES**

**Sunday April 3**

**Workshop**

**from 9.30 a.m.**

**Sunday May 8**

**Workshop**

**from 9.30 a.m.**

***How to use the  
Mormon Records***

**Sunday June 5**

**Workshop**

**from 9.30 a.m.**

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT THE 12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc. 20 March, 2005 held at the Jewish Centre On Ageing, Woollahra at 2.30 p.m.**

**By Rieke Nash, President**

The year 2004 was another productive year for the Society. It was satisfying to see that we maintained our membership numbers at around 160 despite the availability of so much online information.

Many of our members had significant successes, in some instances helped by having access to our resource collection which has grown steadily this year. Thank you for your financial support from memberships, from sales of our CDs and from the donations that made this possible.

Providing resources for the diverse range of research interests of Australian researchers with Jewish ancestry is an expensive challenge for this Society but nevertheless it is one of its priorities. It is becoming quite a unique reference collection for researchers in Australia, researching their overseas roots.

On behalf of all our members I would like to thank

- the Committee of the Society, Bernard Freedman, Sunny Gold, Ken Lipworth, Gary Luke, Peter Nash, Kim Phillips, Miriam Shifreen, Steve Traurig and Jeannette Tsoulos all of whom have dedicated hours to its smooth running
- the Board and Staff of the North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield for allowing us to have a home in the Rev Katz Library, providing us with facilities for workshops and meetings. Thank you to Rabbi Lewin, Calvin Stein and Dafna Orbach
- other volunteers who have enhanced our services in various ways, in particular, Gwenda Harris, David Laufer, Terry Newman and Michael Taub.

Over the years we have developed a number of methods for assisting members with their research.

**The Kosher Koala**

The major medium for communicating with our members is our newsletter, The Kosher Koala. I am sure that you all appreciate the results of the dedication of our Editor, Miriam Shifreen. Miriam has been able to collect material from members and others that has expanded its scope. This year we are very grateful for the help of Ken Lipworth for improving the quality of the newsletter's photos and appearance. We particularly appreciate the enthusiasm of members who have contributed articles this year. The ten-year member profiles (continued on page 13)

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**EDITORIAL**

**By Miriam Shifreen**

It was such a privilege and pleasure to meet those members who came to our Bar Mitzvah Shabbat and luncheon. Those who came had the opportunity to meet other members and to experience the age-old traditional Shabbat service of their Ancestors.

The September 2004 *Shem Tov* from Toronto Canada has an article by Len Scher *Making your own Legacy Video* with ideas for preserving family photos, people and stories. Some years ago, several of my cousins gathered for afternoon tea, each bringing the oldest family photograph we had. While we talked about who was in the photos and what we knew about the people and the setting, another cousin videoed the proceedings, and I made copies for everyone.

✓ So come to one of our monthly workshops and do some research. Peruse our new books and some of the many local and overseas Newsletters and Magazines that we receive regularly from Jewish Genealogy Societies. Be inspired with a variety of new ideas! See what's new on page 8.

And I hope you will be inspired by all the interesting articles in this issue of *Kosher Koala*:

✓ Rieke Nash, our President has reminded us of what a special year 2004 has been, in her Report for the March AGM on Page 2.

✓ If your roots are in Holland, I hope you came to meet the Chairman of the Netherlands Society. See page 3.

✓ *So You Want to Research your English Family* then go to page 4 for suggestions by David Kravitz.

✓ After a recent successful visit Peter Nash advises *How To Research In Salt Lake City* on page 6.

✓ *Being a Jew in Finland* edited by Beulah Gross has history and research ideas on page 8.

✓ Meet our Ten Year Member, Bubbles Segall on page 10 and our new Canberra, ACT Representative Vernon Kronenberg on page 12.

✓ An update for those thinking of attending the Las Vegas International Conference is on page 16.

✓ And there's lots, lots more in this edition to catch your interest.....

My mother's very poor family came from Nikopol, a small shtetl in the Ukraine, and now, a first generation Australian, my cousin Louis (Chalezky) Challis was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (the OA) on 26 January, 2005, our Australia Day. What an honour for our family!

*Miriam Shifreen*

*Editor*

*editor@ajgs.org.au*

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## VISIT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE NETHERLANDS SOCIETY

By Michael Cohen

Simon Italiaander, Chairman of the Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy (NSJG), and his wife Annette, attended the December AJGS workshop. The Italiaanders were visiting Australia for three months and the fact that they would be at the workshop attracted a healthy turnout of members of Dutch origin. Simon has been chairman of NSJG for two years and was previously treasurer. He said that the Society had about 500 members, not all Jewish.

The Society publishes a journal *Misjpage* and holds conferences every five years. These are usually low-key but the next one may be held in conjunction with the US-based International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Membership is available for \$US 50 or Euro 30 p.a. plus a 10% surcharge for credit cards. Further details are available on their website [www.nljewgen.org](http://www.nljewgen.org)

Simon said that Jewish records in Holland are very well documented, particularly since 1812 when, under the Napoleonic Code, surnames were introduced. Detailed records were kept for births, marriages and deaths and these were then transcribed by civil servants into annual alphabetical lists and then into 10-year sectors.

A great deal of information is now available from the Dutch archives, publications and websites.

One interesting source of information is provided by a register of market licences kept in the Amsterdam City Archives which is contactable on [www.gemeentearchiefamsterdam.nl](http://www.gemeentearchiefamsterdam.nl)

Records were kept on registration cards and copies can be ordered. Simon said that NSJG can organise these but it is firstly necessary to confirm that the relevant cards are available. David Landor, an AJGS member, said that he would design forms so that enquiries can be made through the Dutch Society.

*Michael Cohen, a long-term member of our Society, has been researching his Cohen family from the town s-Hertogenbosch, Holland and has recently made a connection with family in France.*



**Simon Italiaander, Chairman of the Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy, giving a talk about their society and Dutch resources on Sunday 5th December.**

Our Society has a good collection of resources for the Netherlands, including *Trowen In Mokum*, Marriages in Amsterdam 1598-1811, *In Memoriam*, the Dutch Yizkor Book of the Deported Jews, the complete set of *Misjpage* with its indices and many other publications.

We are about to add to our collection of valuable resources and thank you to our members who have made this purchase possible.

Anyone with Dutch research interests would benefit from looking at the collection at one of our monthly workshops. As well as the Dutch chapter from the new Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy, members should consult the Netherlands folder and the January, 2005 edition of the Newsletter of the International Settlers Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria which has an excellent article on Dutch resources.

The main websites are:-

**Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy**  
[www.nljewgen.org](http://www.nljewgen.org)

**Central Dutch Archive Directory**  
[www.archieven.nl](http://www.archieven.nl)

**Centre for Research on Dutch Jewry**  
<http://dutchjewry.huji.ac.il>

This has an index to the Amsterdam marriages at  
<http://dutchjewry.huji.ac.il/maineng/upload/genealogy/main.html>

**Dutch Genealogical Society**  
[www.ngv.nl](http://www.ngv.nl)

This site lists many sites for National, Provincial and local archives.

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## RESEARCHING IN ENGLAND

By David Kravitz

If you are visiting England and hope to research your ancestors, there are two main venues for information.

**The National Archives**, previously known as the Public Record Office or PRO, is in Kew, London, an imposing white building by the Thames, a short, signposted, walk from the Kew underground and railway station. It has ample free parking.

The second is the **Family Records Centre**, 1 Myddleton Street, Islington, London EC1R 1UW, near Kings Cross railway station and Angel underground station. This is central London with limited (and expensive) on-street metered parking close by. Since 2003, access to central London by car involves driving into a central charge zone of £5 per day Monday to Friday. Failure to pay this charge by the end of the day can involve a substantial fine.

### The National Archives

Before visiting Kew I would strongly advise you to look at the website [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) for a lot of detail about the records. Print off the section called *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) in the genealogy section. The Archive is a huge library that you may join in exactly the same way you join your local library, so take along two methods of proving who you are and where you live. If you are a visitor to England, you may still join but you must also produce your passport. The main reading rooms are a rich mixture of cultures and races tracing their roots

The major item of interest at Kew is *Naturalisation Papers*. Only a small percentage of our families bothered to become British and most of these were men. The staff is friendly and helpful and will guide any newcomers towards the right books. The main starting point is the category HO144 on the first floor. Once you have traced a relative, you request the actual papers via computer terminals. You can request several documents at a time, but only see three sets at a time and this can seriously slow you down. Expect to spend most of the day. If you know the paper references, you can order them via the Internet in advance stating the day you wish to see them. Personally, I could live there.

In Britain, there is no Freedom of Information Act, thus the date of the naturalisation papers is critical. Over seventy years, little problem and do not let them try the old 100 year rule on you. Less than seventy years and the documents may be classified as secret. If this is the case you can appeal to the

Home Office. If you have good cause, for example a direct line blood relative, you should get clearance opening the file. These papers will tell you all about the person's ancestry, where he or she was born, and when. Siblings will probably be listed along with witness and police reports.

A photocopying service is available on site but again you may be faced with a long queue as each document has to be carefully taken apart.

All sorts of other records are kept at Kew and the website is most thorough. *The 1901 census* is on the first floor as well as the microfiche of the Births, Deaths and Marriages books available at the Family Records Centre (see below).

On the second floor is the map room. Here are the very sparse shipping records. Most surviving records relate to sailings to and from the old British Empire and the United States. There are no records for Eastern Europe or the Mediterranean. (Some local newspapers in the ports, at one time, published passenger data. Main English ports include Liverpool, Harwich, Southampton, Hull as well as Cardiff in south Wales.) Unfortunately how our ancestors arrived from Europe will probably always remain a mystery. (Look at [www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org) for sailings to the US.)

Also at Kew are the deed poll ledgers where people changed their names via the courts. Both old and new names are listed twice allowing searching by old or new. The records are mainly hand-written and sorted only by initials of surname until very recent years.

There was not a legal requirement to change your name via the court. You could advertise in a local paper "that from this day on, I wish to be known as....". Or merely adopt a name. Some of the deed poll changes reported in the *London Gazette* can be searched online at [www.gazettes-online.co.uk](http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk)

And, by the way, it is pencils only within the library. On the ground floor is a pleasant cafeteria.

### The Family Records Centre

The Myddleton Street Centre is full of very large books sectioned by the category of Births, Deaths and Marriages and by quarter or, earlier, half years. Alphabetical lists need to be trawled through and, hopefully, you have a vague idea of the date. I subtracted nine months from my uncle's birth to find my grandparents' wedding data. For a fee, you can have a copy of any certificate. Be warned that seats are noticeably absent. I spent several weeks here researching my own family by a variety of spellings including a C as well as a K. I estimate that I had to remove and replace some 4,500 of these heavy, leather-bound books. The reward was

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a list of over 500 names, most of which will not be related to me. The downside was the disappearance of people. Some might be change of name, others emigration, a few my negligence. Two families "disappear" but turned up on the *Ellis Island records*. If you are reasonably sure of a family connection, you can order a copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate from the desk and they will post it to you for a fee. Here, too, are computerised records on the *1901 UK census*. Scottish records are kept in Edinburgh but a computer room provides a chargeable link to these records. Many of these records can be searched online at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>

**The Family Record archive**, called *Family Search*, is online at: [www.1837online.com](http://www.1837online.com). A commercial organisation, it allows you to search the Births, Marriages and Deaths records at Myddleton Street and for ten pence a page to look at the actual pages themselves. I tried this when it was under development, free of charge, and it is excellent. Clearly it can be expensive if you merely want to trawl (I looked at 4,500 books only back as far as 1880). (These indices are available on microfiche at the State Library and at Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney.) Births, marriages and deaths data can also be obtained directly from the Office for National Statistics at Southport. You can order online at [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content).

A good source of data about your relatives is *Wills* that have been through probate. You are legally entitled to a copy of anyone's will, it's public information. Write to the Probate Office at Dunscombe Place, York, YO1 2EA. You need to be as helpful as you can. Supply a full name, year of death and place of death if possible. For a fee of £5, they will search forwards three years from the date you supply. It can take up to six weeks at busy times, but I have just had a (negative) response on my great-grandparents almost by return of post.

Early nineteenth century *Wills* show the relationship between the deceased and those receiving handouts. *Wills* will give you the names and addresses of beneficiaries, often with a relationship, and also the name and address of any solicitors involved in drawing up the Will. During the last fifty years *Wills* have been computerised and are kept at Astley House, off Deansgate, Manchester. I have found their staff to be extremely helpful. You can also visit the **Probate Office**, High Holborn, London, and search their records, latterly computerised. They will provide a copy of both the Will and Probate in about an hour.

Visitors to London may find other references useful before departing. For example, the Jewish

Genealogical Society of Great Britain website at [www.jgsgb.org.uk](http://www.jgsgb.org.uk) has lists of libraries and cemeteries and the commercial site [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) accesses the UK censuses from 1871 to 1901.

Another commercial site where you can search for telephone numbers free of charge is at [www.192.com](http://www.192.com) but remember that many people are unlisted. For a subscription fee you can check the voters' lists for 2002 and 2003.

A mention, too, of the *Jewish Telegraph* based in Manchester covering the north of England. Once a month, this newspaper publishes a column called Roots where you can post messages searching for relatives. They do accept messages for the whole of England because they have an Internet edition found at [www.jewishtelegraph.com](http://www.jewishtelegraph.com). There are details on the website on how to send a request. Normally they will publish your full name, address and telephone number for responses.

**JewishGen** introduced a new way of researching almost all the computerised documents in the UK. Located at [www.jewishgen.org/databases/uk](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/uk) this is the most comprehensive guide yet made available to genners.

As fast as I update this document, new sources come on board. such as [www.jewishreunion.co.uk](http://www.jewishreunion.co.uk) created by the *Jewish Chronicle*, London. Listings for births, marriages and deaths published in the *Jewish Chronicle* can be reviewed for the past few years and can be accessed via [www.jchron.co.uk](http://www.jchron.co.uk) Also refer to Miriam Pollak's CD-Rom of *Jewish Chronicle 1900-1909* and Doreen Berger's *The Jewish Victorian 1861-1870 and 1871-1880*.\*

Appointments are needed to use some archives. There are no facilities for research by the staff, you must visit yourself or ask someone to do it for you. The records include people and places. Much of the data is on microfilm and microfiche so be prepared for much digging.

And, finally, I am happy to respond to any questions or suggestions. Feel free to send me e-mails at: [david\\_kravitz@hotmail.com](mailto:david_kravitz@hotmail.com).

*David Kravitz developed an interest in genealogy some 25 years ago after publishing something very similar on Greek and Roman mythology. As an ex-IBM computer man, later a university lecturer, he says that the type of mind needed for genealogy came as second nature. Born in Wales, he grew up in Manchester, England, moving to Bournemouth in 1978 and Israel last year.*

\*These resources are available in the Library of our Society in Lindfield.

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## RESEARCH AT SALT LAKE CITY

By Peter Nash

It is probably every genealogist's strong desire to visit the Family History Library (FHL), part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS - Mormons) in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA – at least once! Rieke and I achieved this in October 2004. Initially we planned to spend just over two weeks in Salt Lake City doing research in the Library and taking a few days to tour the surrounding Rocky Mountains area. We also registered to link up with the week-long 12th Annual Jewish Genealogical Research Trip headed by Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff. Our goals were achieved - except for the touring - as we found ourselves overwhelmed by the "Candy Store", the often-used nickname for the vast resources in the FHL.

The Library is open Monday 8 am to 5 pm, Tuesday to Saturday 8 am to 9 pm, and closed on Sunday. Various special interest or society groups attend virtually every day e.g. Swedish, Italian, etc, resulting in a queue of about 200 before the 8 am opening. To cater for the hundreds of daily visitors the multi-level Library is ideally set up with four floors separately dedicated to research in USA and Canada (two floors), British Isles and International (Europe, Asia, Central and South America, etc). Entry and access to more than 2 million rolls of microfilmed records, 250,000 books and hundreds of maps for research are free. There are literally billions of records waiting to be discovered. To facilitate access there are about 600 microfilm and fiche readers with different magnifications, right or left hand operation, etc, film copiers and photocopiers for varying paper size, (using pre-paid stored value cards) and combination scanner/CD burners (one per floor and free of charge). Each floor has friendly, helpful specialised staff as well as many untrained but willing assistants. Translators for German, Polish and Russian were also on hand.

The majority of the commonly used films are permanently accessible from numerically identifiable drawers. A large number of so-called films labelled VAULT in the FHL Catalogue are also available from off-site storage but have to be ordered, which may take a day or so to arrive. Restricted films (such as those that are not available to other Family History Centers) can also be obtained under certain guidelines (direct descendancy, etc). This led me to the connection between myself and a recently found cousin.

If any or all of the above is not enough, one can use online internet access from about 50 terminals per

floor, especially the key Mormon websites *ancestry.com* and *familysearch.org* all of which can be used free including the databases that normally require a subscription fee. Personal email access is also gratis.

There is a program of classes or workshops every day on a variety of topics, often with a focus of the special interest group in residence on a particular week.

Excellent hotel accommodation at reasonable cost is also only two minutes walk from the Library entrance, making it easy to drag along laptops and paperwork and very comfortable to return for a meal or rest break. Snack bars and even a microwave can also be used off the main resource areas. There are numerous other quality dining places in close proximity to the FHL.

In order to get the most of a visit some preparation is essential. This entails pinpointing the microfilms or other resources that may hold the records or data of interest and is best done by searching the online FHL Catalogue from your computer or the AJGS-held CD with an index of all the Jewish Records in the FHL Catalogue. This was compiled by LDS member, Nancy Goodstein-Hilton, who also recently reported on new Jewish records available on about 400 microfilms – see *AVOTAYNU* XX no.1 (Spring 2004), 16. Thus armed with the microfilms numbers, etc. of interest we were able to quickly access or order the VAULT films (some in advance of our arrival) and immediately begin our research. Although we consider ourselves experienced researchers we each found vast amounts of new records, even though it was not always obvious there was a real connection.

We averaged ten hours of research per day with immediate film selection and availability. To achieve the equivalent amount of productive research at a local (Sydney) Family History Centre could take several weeks based on day and/or time restrictions on readers and say two hours of effective research in a session. There is also the not insignificant cost of ordering a film, then waiting for the film to arrive, which varies from several weeks to several months, and then the frustration of discovering that the ordered film proves not to be relevant and the process of ordering another film, etc starts all over again.

Here is an example. One of my ancestral towns is the former Danzig, now Gdansk, Poland. I earmarked about 50 microfilms from the Catalog for BMDs, Burial Plot Purchases, Name Adoptions, Land & Property, etc. over the period 1833 to 1939. Most of these films however only cover narrow year spans and by being able to quickly scan a film

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for relevance I not only found many names with positive and possible connections but I reduced the overall task to about 30 films.

Just before leaving Sydney I received some new information on one of my ancestors and so I needed to 're-visit' a couple of films I had viewed some years ago. Amazingly, viewing the same films I found records that now seemed very relevant, giving me hope for a 'breakthrough'.

The films of the Hamburg (to America) Direct and Indirect Passenger Lists and Indexes for 1850-1934 are permanently available on the floor. In 2001 I searched online but was continually frustrated as I had no idea of my ancestor's husband's name, arrival dates, ship name, etc. Drop-outs and blank images also interfered. Here I was able to scan nearly 100 films over three days with some success.

My special interest in resources for China also allowed me to quickly look at films and microfiche that I had noted over a period of years in a 'for possible interest' file. I was not disappointed as I found some fascinating material, such as the Quota Registration Book from the US Consulate in Shanghai for 1946-1950. I found my father's registration for our possible immigration to the US, with special notes on outcomes.

All of this suggests that anyone who is going or thinking of going to the IAJGS Conference in Las Vegas to be held July 10-15 this year, should consider also going to Salt Lake City either before or after the Conference, as they are close together. On the other hand, an IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City is also planned for 2007.

Being part of the Mokotoff & Polakoff Research Trip also gave some advantages, such as, how to get the most out of the FHL (for first-timers), expert research guidance, specific answers to 'brick wall' questions and networking with nearly 40 other Jewish-specific researchers. There were quite a number of multi-*alumni*, with one making eleven trips so far. The 13th Research Trip is planned for October 2005.

Was it worth the time, cost and effort? YES! - although we did create months of work sorting out what we brought back. Would we do it again? Yes - especially as more and more records are becoming available regularly. However a shorter visit may only be required and next time maybe some sight-seeing will also be achieved.

*Peter Nash authored the chapter on China in the Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy as well as several articles in Kosher Koala on his researches.*

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## WINTER JOURNEY - A NEW NOVEL BY DIANE ARMSTRONG

Don't miss this opportunity to hear our member, author Diane Armstrong, describing the background to her just released first novel. She will be talking to the Society on Sunday April 17 at the North Shore Synagogue. In the past Diane has entertained us with vivid descriptions of her experiences in researching her books, *Mosaic* and *The Voyage of Their Life* and all who attended those talks were fascinated with her stories.

*Winter Journey* is based on an incident that took place in Poland during the Holocaust but was concealed until very recently. In July 1941, all the Jewish inhabitants of Jedwabne, over 1000 of them, were rounded up, pushed into a barn and set on fire.

Until an exposé was published several years ago, it was generally believed that this atrocity had been committed by the Nazis. But an American historian revealed that the perpetrators had been not the Germans, but the Poles themselves. The shocking truth is that in 1941, one half of the village murdered the other half.

Diane says:

*"In researching Winter Journey, I spoke to Rabbi Baker, who was born in Jedwabne, and now lives in New York. He was responsible for putting together the Jedwabne Memorial Book which became an invaluable source for me, of personal stories, background information and historical facts about life in that village.*

*I travelled to Jedwabne where I stood on the site of the barn, walked around the village and reconstructed the events of 1941 with the help of some of the villagers. I spoke to the teacher, the priest, some councillors, the former mayor, school students, and some villagers.*

*I think that members will be interested in the research I did in connection with this book, especially as it involved the use of the memorial book and a visit to the remote Polish village which has been bitterly divided by this revelation, and where attitudes became polarised as a result.*

*In many ways, Winter Journey became a personal journey for me. At about the same time as the massacre took place in Jedwabne, my parents and I were living in another Polish village not far away, posing as Catholics to avoid capture."*

The Society's library will open for research at 2.30 pm and Diane will speak around 3.30 pm.

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## BEING A JEW IN FINLAND

By Rafael Wardi

Only in my mature years have I begun to realise how relevant the past and history are to my own identity.

To be able to talk about the present, I must go back to a time before my birth. To be able to explain how I relate to myself as a Jew in Finland, I must first clarify how I relate to my Jewishness and its background as far into the past as I can trace my ancestry.

My family is a typical Russian Jewish one. The Waprinisky-Katzmans on my father's side came from the village of Tschaus in the Mogilev region of White Russia. Jews had been living in the so-called Jewish Pale of Settlement since 1835 to 1917. We do not know exactly how long our ancestors had lived in the area, but there had been Jews living in the Mogilev region since 1654 and our family had been there for several generations.

The main cause of Jewish emigration from the region around the turn of the century were two waves of pogroms (outbursts of organised violence against Jews) and as we assume, 'ethnic cleansing' in Mogilev, (now Mahilyow, Belarus.)

My grandparents arrived in Finland in 1880, the same year in which my grandmother, Esther Katzman Waprinisky's second sister, Chascha, emigrated to South Africa, to be followed by a third sister, Boona, some years later. My grandparents were granted a residence permit for Finland (then a self-governing duchy within the Russian Empire) for a maximum of five years. Master tailor, David Waprinisky was told that he would have to return to the Tschaus region in 1889. Thus the family's situation in Finland was uncertain.

In any event, it can be established that all who remained in Helsinki were my grandparents and my grandmother's brother, Perez Katzman, the other sisters, Chascha and Boona Katzman, having emigrated with their families to South Africa.

My great-grandparents, Dinah and Moische Katzman, whose photographs are still in the family's possession, along with the remainder of our kin remained in Russia. Dinah's brother, Perez Katzman, and his wife, Rachel Haje, adopted Maurice Stiller who later gained fame as a film director and used the name Mauritz Katzman until Perez died in 1904.

When I think of Jewish identity in Finland, I cannot exclude a time when the lives of Jews and my family were not subject to precise legal regulations.

One example of these restrictions is that Jews were permitted to work only in certain areas where my mother was allowed to run a shop near Kallio Library in Helsinki.

Since Benjamin Sribnik, a goldsmith and my maternal grandfather, came directly from the very Hassidic environment of the Jewish communities in the Baltic States, it is understandable that my grandparents brought a fairly unaltered tradition with them to Finland. Artistic talent features in both branches of my family; music on my father's side and several generations of gold and silversmiths on my mother's side.

In the 1920s my parents bought a seaside villa on the small island of Lauttasaari in Helsinki while the rest of the family remained in Siltasaarenkatu, Helsinki. The only way to get to the island was by ferry or boat or across the ice in winter. Communications improved when the first bridge to the island was opened in 1934. The people on the island were both Finnish and Swedish and many were professional fishermen or artisans. The villa had a vegetable garden and my parents kept chickens and ducks, an important food supplement especially during the war.

During the war in the winter of 1939-40 my parents spent part of the time as evacuees in Nurmijarvi. The war was a difficult period and my schooling, at a Jewish Comprehensive school, was interrupted some of the time. Around the beginning of the 1940s we began to hear reports of the persecution of Jews. I sensed a change in people's attitudes in a more reserved and restrained direction.

My home was Orthodox. My mother had a strong belief in certain omens and phenomena. She used to tell dybbuk tales, in which good and evil struggled with one another. In addition to the black-and-white dualistic view of the world espoused in those stories, we children were also taught to believe that the events of life were ordered by an unpredictable God.

As we are Cohans on my father's side, my brother and I sang in the Cohan choir on the Sabbath in the synagogue with other Cohans. According to hereditary code, only the Cohans have exclusive rights before God to ask for His blessing for the people. The choir consisted of males who sang standing, wearing their tallith, their hands raised in the blessing position.

My home defined absolute limits for Jewish life, which was alien to the surrounding Swedish-speaking community. Yet my parents embraced a Swedish identity and never used the Finnish language.



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My father died in 1933, before my fifth birthday, my mother in 1946. I completed my studies at the Finnish Art Academy in 1949. The results of anti-Semitism in Europe and a reserved attitude in Finland did not leave me untouched. It has affected my art which became an all-powerful content in my life. The old tradition of going on with life sustains me.

*Rafael Wardi, born in 1928, is an artist of international fame. His work has been exhibited in and commissioned for art galleries and museums all over the world particularly America, Stockholm, France, and Israel. Some months ago he designed the scenery and costumes for a production of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' in Tampere, the second largest city in Finland. Earlier in 2004, he was commissioned to paint the official portrait of the President of Finland.*

*Reprinted with permission from Eva Wardi, Rafael's daughter, December 2004,*

*Eva Wardi sent this extra information which she received from a second cousin now in Jerusalem. She found Finnish newspapers of the late 1880s written in old Swedish, the official language in Finland, and therefore are not too easy to read.*

***The Hufvudstadsbladet No: 253, of Saturday, 28 October 1889*** mentions Jews in Helsinki and their permission to stay in Finland given by the Russian Senate in the year 1889.

*Seventy six families of ex-Russian soldiers were not allowed to remain in Helsinki, while nineteen families not from the military were also told to leave within a year.*

*Two persons mentioned are obliged to leave the country in 1889: a tailor Dawid Girchoff Weprinskij and a hatmaker Shavel Kusel Gussman Israelowitsch Baitz.*

So, this explains why some Waprinsky children were born in Helsinki and others in Mogilev. The article mentions Kussel (Yekusiel but known as Kasreel) Baetz who married Boona Katzman, sister of David's wife, Esther, probably before leaving for South Africa. They were Beulah Gross's paternal grandparents. Both David Waprinsky with his family and Kussel Baetz with his family left the country at the same time for their home districts if not both to Mogilev. (Kasreel went to South Africa). This expulsion occurred every five years but the Jews mentioned were allowed to return after one year.

Interestingly a list of names found in a Tsarist Senate paper in Finland sent on 29 March 1889 to the Governor of the Nyland Province contains that of Peretz Katzman among others.

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*The Finland No 150 of Sunday, 1 July 1888* mentions Kussel Baetz, and it refers to those Jews permitted to stay in Helsinki by the order of the governor (guvernören) and the city police department. Children of Jewish soldiers over 21 years of age were also allowed to remain in Helsinki if they did not marry which explains why marriages were often kept secret.

A list of persons with their families who had to leave the country at a given time in the near future included:

Joel Jankeloff Anker

Kusel Baitz

Schima Friman

Josef Pergament

Abram Rung

Schimon Soloveitschik

Nuchim Schapira

his mother Feige Schapira

Israel Wernich

David Webrinski

Note: Other families allowed to remain in Helsinki included that of Rabbi Abel Haima.

Further information on Jews in Helsinki can be found in the following article by searching July 1888).

<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/digi/aurora/fileviewer.jsp?typpi=mq&masterId=911498>  
(<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/> for Jankeloff or Abel Haima.)

but needs to be translated from Finnish or old Swedish. Use the midsize to read the newspaper pages.

There are also articles on Jews in Finland April 1889.

<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/digi/aurora/fileviewer.jsp?typpi=mq&masterId=809831>

<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/digi/aurora/fileviewer.jsp?typpi=mq&masterId=1185505>

<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/digi/aurora/fileviewer.jsp?typpi=mq&masterId=891618>

They contain a list of names found in the paper the Tsarist Senate in Finland wrote on 29 March 1889 to the Governor of the Nylands Province which includes: Peretz Katsman, Mordhe Linder, Josef Rung, Schmol Schkurnik, Eva Mordah, Abel Haima, Moses Pergament, Haim Jakob Linder, Moses Rosenthal ... Kuschakoff, Weikkanen ...

*Edited by Beulah Gross whose grandmother, Boona Katzman was mentioned in the text. Beulah who comes from South Africa has been a member of our Society for 13 years and is our Representative on the Central Coast of NSW You can read her story in the KK Vol 9, No.3, page 13.*

*rachi@ozemail.com.au*

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## BUBBLES SEGALL

I grew up in Stellenbosch - a town near Cape Town in South Africa. I migrated to Australia at the end of 1974 after spending a year in New Zealand. I spent a year in Sydney then moved to the Top End of Australia - to the Northern Territory where I have lived ever since.



My first foray into the wonderful world of genealogy had a slow start in 1967 and then progressed at a pace of knots after 1984.

### 1967

In 1967 my step-mother Bunty, won a trip to Israel through the JNF (Jewish National Fund). While my parents were staying at the Astoria, a popular hotel in Tel Aviv for visiting South Africans at the time, an acquaintance of my father, Eddie, who was staying at the same hotel, approached him and told him that she had met a man by the name of Israel Segall who claimed to have Segall relatives in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Eddie, who was born and raised in Stellenbosch replied "Impossible, I know all the Segalls in Stellenbosch, there is my first cousin Abe and myself and we don't have any relative called Israel." The woman relayed the message to Israel.

A few days later, the woman approached Eddie again and said that Israel Segall was adamant that they were related. Eddie finally agreed to meet him. A time was arranged and he and Bunty set off to meet Israel and his wife Betty. When they met, they realised that they didn't have a common language. They tried communicating in Yiddish, but Eddie's South African/Lithuanian version of Yiddish was different to Israel and Betty's Polish version. They finally managed with some difficulty to converse in their own versions of Yiddish.

The first thing Israel did was pull out an old black and white photo of his family which was taken in Siauliai in Lithuania. Eddie gasped in surprise; he had the same photo back home in Stellenbosch. Israel was a young boy in the photo and the only people Eddie knew were his grandparents - Avraham Yehuda and Esther Nachama Segall (nee Sharfanowich).

Israel had been right all along, he did have Segall family in Stellenbosch and Eddie and his first cousin, Abe were his family! A year later I went to live in Israel and ended up staying there for two years. I spent time with Betty and Israel and on my

first visit to their home, Israel produced a handwritten Segall family tree which I found fascinating. The only people I had heard of were my father, my grandparents, great grandparents, great-great grandparents and one of my grandfather's brothers.

I have always treasured this handwritten tree of Israel's, which is now tattered, yellow and worn with age. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I knew that I wouldn't rest until I found all the living descendants of my ancestors mentioned in this tree. I found most of them and was sad that I couldn't share my findings with Bunty and Eddie as they had both passed away by then.

### 1984

My second foray into genealogy was in 1984 when I was given Arthur Kurzweil's book "*From Generation to Generation. How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History*" His book opened up a whole new world to me and I have been hooked on genealogy ever since. This time I decided to concentrate on researching my paternal grandmother's side of the family and have now accumulated information on seven generations of my Lurie family.

### Lurie Links

In the process of accumulating all of this information, I realised that many family members, scattered all over the world, had accumulated a mass of information. How could we share this information? How could we save this information for future generations in one place? I decided to start a quarterly Lurie Family Newsletter and at the beginning of last year, *Lurie Links* was born. It has been distributed to over 50 family members worldwide, has been well received and family members have been very generous with their time, contributions and information.

### South African Special Interest Group

My other interest has been in South African history and genealogy. I have been the editor of the South African Special Interest Group Newsletter for a year now. I find that I am always learning something new about my country of birth from this publication. Produced quarterly, further information can be found at our website:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/index.htm>

### The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory

As there is no Jewish Genealogical Society in the Northern Territory, I joined the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory and have been a member for many years - probably their only Jewish member!

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Originally I joined so I could use their microfiche readers as I had purchased almost the entire set of microfiche from *Avotaynu*. The members of the society soon got to know that I was Jewish and now and again I would get requests for assistance with Jewish research. The librarian is always on the lookout for articles on Jewish research for me. I recently donated my entire Avotaynu microfiche collection to this society.

*Bubbles Segall, a ten-year member of our Society, has attended some International Jewish Genealogy Conferences and has published articles in Kasher Koala: "Report on 20th IAJGS Conference" Vol 7 No 3&4 Dec 2000, "Mary Lurie Segall" Vol 10 No 4 Dec 2003.*

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### SOME NEW RESOURCES IN OUR LIBRARY

Members who have an interest in the latest additions to our Resources can inspect them at our regular monthly Sunday morning workshops. If you cannot attend you can request specific look-ups from any of our resources.



Alexander Beider's new book "**A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia**", Avotaynu, 2004 is another excellent companion to his earlier references for surnames in the Russian Empire and the Kingdom of Poland. He calls it "a memorial to Galician Jewry" with its 35,000 surnames and its background information for understanding the origins of these names from this historically complicated area of Europe that existed from 1772 to 1918. The entry for each name gives any variation in spelling or form and the towns where the name appeared.

We have also received the Revised Edition of the 1987 publication "**The Naturalized Jews of the Grand Duchy of Posen in 1834 and 1835**" compiled by Edward David Luft, Avotaynu, 2004. Each person is listed by their family name and includes given name(s), town of residence and profession. Other information describes population characteristics for each town in the area

Other items that can be consulted are our collection of periodicals that include *Avotaynu*, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, *Shemot*, the Journal of the Great Britain JGS, *Stammbaum*, the Journal of German-Jewish Genealogical Research and *Landsmen*, the publication of the Suwalki-Lomza SIG.

Also worth consulting is our growing collection of CDs. e.g. early Rookwood Cemetery, London Jewish Chronicle.

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### A MESSAGE FROM JEWISHGEN

From Carol W. Skydell,  
Vice President, JewishGen Special Projects

When a message you send to another researcher listed in the JGFF (Jewish Genealogical Family Finder) or FTJP (Family Tree of the Jewish People), fails to be delivered, please report the bounce to [lostNfound@lyris.jewishgen.org](mailto:lostNfound@lyris.jewishgen.org). In your message, provide your own full name and JGID, and the name and JGID of the person with the bounced e-mail.

Under the leadership of Saul Goldstone we have a considerable group of volunteers who contact people in their local area who have changed their e-mail addresses but have neglected to notify JewishGen. The ability to connect with another researcher who may have a connection to your own research is vital and the reason we established the lostNfound help desk.

If you are willing to devote some time to helping in this effort, please contact Saul At: [sgoldstone@jewishgen.org](mailto:sgoldstone@jewishgen.org) and provide him with your home address and specify the towns to which you are willing to make phone calls. These can be as wide an area as you like. Please consider joining in the effort to find all researchers who are lost. Many thanks for helping with this.

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### JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH 2005

*April 10 to May 9*

The publisher Avotaynu ([www.avotaynu.com](http://www.avotaynu.com)) is again distributing a poster to all Societies for Jewish Genealogy Month. This year the theme is *Changing Numbers Back to Names*, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Liberation of the Camps in Europe after World War II.

"When the Nazis rounded us up, they took away our names and gave us numbers. We genealogists are involved in taking away the numbers and giving back the names." – Arthur Kurzweil.

The poster can be viewed on  
[www.avotaynu.com/poster2005.html](http://www.avotaynu.com/poster2005.html)

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### CENTRAL ZIONIST ARCHIVES NEW SITE

This Archive in Jerusalem has a new website in English and Hebrew at:  
[www.zionistarchives.org.il](http://www.zionistarchives.org.il)

The collection is varied with a special Genealogy section which includes information about their database and files for the Relatives Search Bureau Requests. Their email is [cza@jazo.org.il](mailto:cza@jazo.org.il)

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## VERNON KRONENBERG

Vernon Kronenberg is the new ACT representative of AJGS, taking over from Sylvia Deutsch. Both are formerly Sydney people, Vernon having moved down in 1964 to take up a public service career. In Sydney Vernon was an attendee at the old



North Shore Synagogue, was a member of the NSSY group in the 1950s (is it still going?) and did his bar mitzvah under Rev. Katz, which is a nice connection with the AJGS.

“While *yichus* (renowned family name or status) was an important part of Jewish life, it is a fact that many people come to their genealogy a bit too late” and Vernon regrets that he is one of that group of people who did not start to investigate his roots until both parents passed away and as a consequence he has very little initial information to create family linkages. On both sides of his Polish parents’ large families the destruction of the Shoah was almost total and few clues are left.

Distant relatives have been located – thanks to the internet – in France, Israel and the US but they seem to know very little or are so old that they have forgotten much. The missing names of his parents’ generation may never be re-created, let alone the earlier generations.

The contrast with his late wife’s (Naomi Kessler) genealogy is most instructive. On both sides of her family there have been genealogists active for many years – on her father’s Kessler side, Gael Hammer and Natalie Kessler in Sydney. On her mother’s Auerbach side the German *Stammbaum* book going back to 1575 was first published in London in 1957 with about 1900 names; was partly updated by a beloved cousin, Dr. Daniel Cohen, whose day job was the Director of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem; and in 2002 was updated by a group working in Beersheva, Israel to a CD-Rom with over 8,000 names spanning 18 generations and 5 continents.

But even before this there were active genealogists at work. Indeed, Rabbi Hirsch Auerbach (1690-1778) recorded his family ancestry going back about two hundred years. His work forms the main historical basis of the current genealogy plus a number of additional sources. Why this

assiduousness over so many years? Because the Auerbach family produced many rabbis, including the Nahal Eshkol (1808-1872) whose position of Rabbi of Halberstadt, Germany was thereafter filled by three generations of offspring, until the events of 1938 brought that distinguished history to a close.

As well as pursuing his own genealogy Vernon is an active scanner of Jewish genealogical websites and tries to assist others with their enquiries. He is also a member of RAOGK – Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness – and handles requests, not necessarily Jewish, from all over the world involving research at the National Archives located in Canberra. You can contact him at:

*Vernon Kronenberg*

*GPO Box 1284, Canberra ACT 2601*

*Vkronenb@pcug.org.au*

*Vernon is researching BLUMENKOPF (Garwolin & Warsaw) BOROWY, FISZ, (Poland)*

*GRUETZMANN, KRONENBERG, (Lodz &*

*Warsaw) KEPERMAN & LEDERER (Bronx, 1940s) ORZEL, REZNIK, (Warsaw & Jerusalem)*

*RUDZYNSKI*

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## THE GUNSBERGER FAMILY

The fascinating family story of Fred Gunsberger, the father of our member, Rose, can now be read on the website:

[www.cts01.hss.uts.edu.au/ShanghaiSite/gpath/gshanghai/gshangchina.html](http://www.cts01.hss.uts.edu.au/ShanghaiSite/gpath/gshanghai/gshangchina.html)

Fred’s story describes his experiences in Hungary and Vienna, in China and then Australia.

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## JNF MISSIONS TO EUROPE

Two trips to Europe and Israel have been planned by JNF Australia. Leaving on May 22 from Sydney and returning on 8 June, 2005.

The itinerary for one group is mainly Vienna, Vilnius (Vilna), Kaunas (Kovno) and Prague and the other group will go to Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Prague. Both groups will then travel to Israel.

For more details contact Shalom Norman at: [shalomn@jnfaustralia.com.au](mailto:shalomn@jnfaustralia.com.au)

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## A MISSING IDENTITY

One of our members has asked us to publicise the search for family by their daughter’s father-in-law. The story that can be read on [www.jewishgen.org/missing-identity/p-jakov.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/missing-identity/p-jakov.html)

This site has had some remarkable successes and it is fascinating to read about these difficult searches.

If you have any ideas contact: [jsh99@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jsh99@ozemail.com.au)

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**President's AGM Report** (continued from page 2) provide ideas for following up and an opportunity for other members to make contact to exchange similar research experiences.

### **Resources**

This year we have bought some significant resources, particularly the new Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy, which has become the first stop for anyone joining the Society. This excellent publication provides the background and research information for almost every possible area in the world where Jews have lived. Other new resources, including some important publications about British backgrounds, are being well used and have provided data for many significant breakthroughs. Thank you, Jeannette Tsoulos, for your assistance with the resource library records.

### **Events**

The presentation of an informal talk on a specific topic at monthly workshops is an innovation that has been very successful. Over the year, members with experience covered topics such as Germany, Vienna, Poland, USA, an IAJGS Conference Report and a description of the holdings of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. At the December meeting, members researching Dutch ancestry met the President of the Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society, Simon Italiaander. Other events included a Translation Day and a report on the Litvak Diaspora Study.

The Bar Mitzvah celebration of the Society's thirteen years was a great success. Over sixty people attended the Shabbat service and lunch and those of our founding group had the satisfaction of realising that our small society has become a viable organisation achieving modest but important goals.

At the last AGM, presentations of their research experiences were made by three of our members, Charles Feldman, Dianne Johnstone and Pam Zopf. Thank you to all who participated and to Peter Nash who organised the publicity for the Society's events.

### **Projects**

Two significant projects were completed this year and our thanks must go to Kim Phillips who spent countless hours and energy providing us with two wonderful CDs.

Many of the members and organisations who have purchased this unique documentation of the Old Section of Rookwood Cemetery have enjoyed the professional presentation. With the help of Gary Luke, Terry Newman and Michael Taub, Kim has created a very valuable addition to Australian research records.

The searchable CD of Ten Years of Kasher Koalas is another useful tool, particularly for beginners to become aware of the possibilities for research.

The successful sale of these resources has provided the Society with funds to continue purchasing the expensive resources so important to our research. It also encourages us to expand this type of dissemination of information which documents our Jewish heritage.

### **Finance**

We thank our treasurer, Gary Luke, for keeping the year's accounts in good order and we are happy to announce that again income exceeded expenditure. Gary will be tabling his report.

### **AJGen Discussion Group**

This online resource continues to be an important avenue for not only local queries but also for overseas enquirers looking for Australian connections. The successful tracking down of descendants is a feature of this site and it has become a valuable forum for exchanging research advice. Thank you, Gary Luke, for monitoring this valuable site and for directing researchers to the appropriate resources.

### **Website**

The Society's website at [www.ajgs.org.au](http://www.ajgs.org.au) continues to be accessed and is maintained by Steve Taurig. It is hosted by Summit. Thank you to both for this valuable asset.

### **Conference**

A number of members attended last year's International Jewish Genealogy Conference in Jerusalem with some giving papers. Again suggestions were made for holding a conference in Australia. The idea has been discouraged.

### **Future Activities**

While curiosity about ancestral information is growing, only a small percentage of the community is committed to exploring this interest beyond a superficial toe-in-the-water. The Internet, and more recently the online availability of the Pages of Testimony from Yad Vashem, has alerted more people to the possibilities for expanding knowledge. Our aim is to provide a forum for those motivated to be able to interact easily and efficiently and to be assisted and encouraged with their research. The more active members we have, the more we can support these aims.

It has been a privilege to be involved with this Society and I look forward to another productive year in 2005.

*Rieke Nash*  
*President*

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## NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[www.ajhs.info](http://www.ajhs.info)

The Australian Jewish Historical Society was founded over sixty years ago and continues to be responsible for the documentation and conservation of Australia's Jewish history and heritage. Their website at [www.ajhs.info](http://www.ajhs.info) is packed with valuable information and photos that will help anyone with an interest in Australian Jewish history.

### Melbourne

Recently parts of their collection in Melbourne were split up and relocated with different organisations.

Their extensive archives are now located in the Australian Manuscripts Section of the State Library of Victoria and are available there for research. This collection includes the minute books of congregations and organisations as well as the correspondence of significant people in the community. They are available between 10 am and 5 pm weekdays. Enquiries (03) 8664-7007

The genealogical material from the AJHS (Vic) has been given to the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic). It includes extensive family trees and other important Victorian records. Contact the Secretary, Lionel Sharpe on (03) 9523-6738 or email [ajgs@exist.com.au](mailto:ajgs@exist.com.au)

The resources from the library of the AJHS are now available at the Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne.

Enquiries to (03) 9534-0083.

### Sydney

The catalogue of the holdings of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney will soon be available on the Victorian website [www.ajhs.info](http://www.ajhs.info)

(A CD-Rom was distributed last year by the AJGS in Sydney which included a catalogue to most of the AJHS resources in Sydney).

Helen Bersten, the archivist in Sydney, is seeking volunteers to help sort and file archives on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and would like to train a volunteer to help with researching and cataloguing. Tel: 9518 7596 or [ajhs@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ajhs@ozemail.com.au)

The AJHS in Sydney is located at Mandelbaum House, 385 Abercrombie Street, Darlington.

The Journals and Newsletters of the AJHS can be viewed at the AJGS workshops in Sydney at the Rev Katz Library, Lindfield.

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## ASSISTANCE FROM THE ISRAEL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (IGS)

*From Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol. 19 No. 1, Feb 2005*

Yad Vashem's launching of the Pages of Testimony Site, where one can search the database, which contains the largest collection of names of those who perished in the Holocaust, represents from a number of standpoints a turning point in the genealogical research of Jews from Eastern Europe and their descendants. As a result of hundreds of requests from researchers from abroad concerning information on the Pages of Testimony, our member Rose Feldman who directs the IGS site, suggested that Israelis assist researchers in locating the submitters of the Pages of Testimony.

To the Society's site [www.isragen.org.il](http://www.isragen.org.il) we added the link *Search for Submitters of Pages of Testimony in Israel*. The list that opens contains the names of the victims, the names of the submitter as well as the names and email addresses of researchers from abroad who are attempting to locate the submitters of the Pages. Israeli readers are invited to enter the site from time to time and try to locate the submitters and inform the researcher according to the email address listed on the side.

*Chana Furman, President, IGS*

(N.B. This new Yad Vashem site was described in *Kosher Koala* Vol 11 No 4 Dec 2004.)

It can be viewed at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)  
See also

[www1.yadvashem.org/remembrance/names/site/home\\_names.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/remembrance/names/site/home_names.html)

[www1.yadvashem.org/about\\_yad/jubilee/survivors/program.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_yad/jubilee/survivors/program.html)

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## THE NAME OF THE BOHEMIA MORAVIA SIG HAS BEEN CHANGED

The name and URL for the former Bohemia Moravia Special Interest Group (Boh-Mor SIG) has been changed to the Austria Czech SIG to better reflect the group's coverage area.

The web page is now at:  
[www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech](http://www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech)

The Austria Czech SIG is a primary source for researching in Austria and in the German-speaking parts of the Czech Republic. All researchers for these areas are encouraged to inspect this site and to subscribe to the Discussion Group for this SIG. There are no charges.

**The Australian Jewish  
Genealogical Society, Inc.**

*Our aim is to encourage and assist those with  
Jewish ancestry to research their family  
histories*

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Western Australia: [jhgs@inet.net.au](mailto:jhgs@inet.net.au)  
Canberra ACT: [vkronenb@pcug.org.au](mailto:vkronenb@pcug.org.au)

**SYDNEY WORKSHOPS**

All workshops are usually held at the Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield, once a month on Sunday mornings, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. See front page for dates.

**The Editor has the right to accept or reject or publish in revised form as might be appropriate.**

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**The Editor:  
P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595, Australia  
or by email: [editor@ajgs.org.au](mailto:editor@ajgs.org.au)**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

*New South Wales*

*Shlomo Di Veroli*

*Basil Joseph*

*Samuel Park*

*Richard Green*

*Moses and Zelda Levitt*

*Margaret Reichenberger*

Annual Membership \$Aust 35.00  
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**The Kasher Koala**

AJGS is selling a CD that includes all back issues of its newsletter 40 issues from Volume 1 No. 1, published in September, 1993 to Volume 10 No. 4 published in December 2003.

The cost, including postage is:

\$ AU 35.00    AJGS members (Aust)  
\$ AU 40.00    Overseas members  
\$ AU 50.00    Non-members (Aust)  
\$ AU 55.00    Non-members (Overseas)

Information about the CD can be found at the Society's site <http://www.ajgs.org.au>.

or

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 42, Lane Cove NSW 1595, Australia

**A HAPPY PESACH TO ALL**

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**THE 25TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
JULY 10-15, 2005**

EARLY REGISTRATION RATES AVAILABLE  
THROUGH MAY 1 ONLINE REGISTRATION  
AVAILABLE AT:

[www.jgssn.org](http://www.jgssn.org)

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada (JGSSN) is proud to be the host society for the 25th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. We are inviting all who have an interest in finding their family history to join us.

This Conference has several new features to help advance your research efforts. You'll be introduced to new databases and exposed to an array of topics that will only whet your appetite for more. Conference attendees will be able to question a number of experts, and meet with people researching the same family lines or ancestral towns.

Plans for the Conference include activities and events for registrants and their spouses or companions that will appeal to all. The comprehensive Conference will be organized around themes so that registrants can easily attend multiple sessions related to their interests. Subjects will be presented in a variety of formats such as lectures, workshops, hands-on demonstrations, panel discussions, films, book and author talks and author signings. Time will be available to have discussions, ask questions and interact with the presenters. "Breakfast with the Expert" sessions will be available throughout the Conference.

**What you can expect**

Ø A 750+ page Conference syllabus

Ø Welcome address at the opening reception by Congresswoman, Shelley Berkeley (D-NV)

Ø Presentations throughout the Conference by highly regarded national and international experts on a wide range of geographic regions and genealogical topics. Included in this will be knowledge needed for conducting Jewish genealogy, research talks covering lesser-known communities, the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe, Sephardic topics, and online genealogy for researching persons, families and shtetls.

Ø Networking opportunities will be offered by attending luncheons with Special Interest Groups (SIGs), or Birds of Feather sessions that focus on specific regions, shtetls etc.

Ø Peruse books, software and other articles of interest as shown by our vendors

Ø Computer Workshop with access to multiple databases and demonstrations

**Some of the more than 70 speakers include**

§ Dr. Alexander Beider - author of Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia

§ Dr. John Colleta - expert/author of They Came in Ships

§ Dr. Stephen P. Morse - creator of "One Step" Ellis Island records search engine and other major genealogical records research engines

§ Miriam Weiner - well known for her first-hand unearthing of records in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine and author of Jewish Roots in Poland, and Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova.

Conference registration rates are: Early Registration (through May 1) \$US200; Regular Registration (after May 1) \$US230. Discounts are available for spouse/companion. For more detailed information re: registration, visit our website.

Register soon so that you can take advantage of the very good hotel rate of \$US61 per night. You may extend your stay for 5 days before and/or after for the same rate. Special Tour rates have been made available for conference attendees.

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**FUTURE CONFERENCES**

**NEW YORK, 2006**

The 2006 IAJGS Conference will be held in New York City from August 13 to 18, 2006.

**SALT LAKE CITY, 2007**

The 2007 IAJGS Conference has been scheduled for Salt Lake City, the home of the Mormon Family History Library.

**DARWIN, 2006**

The 11th Australian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry "Family History – the Access Revolution" being held in Darwin from 1 to 4 June, 2006 will be hosted by the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory, Inc. Held once every three years, the Australasian Genealogical Congress attracts over 1000 delegates from around the world for four days packed full of genealogical conference sessions, lectures and exhibits.

Now is your opportunity to plan a visit to the fabulous Top End of Australia.

For more details look at

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~genient>